GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2835
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
AIR POLLUTION
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop in Indonesia was organised in January 2007 by Asian Development Bank (ADB) on "Better Air Quality" in Asian cities:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the ADB position paper has linked the increase in pollution and particularly toxic emissions in India to the increase in motorization in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A workshop on Better Air Quality (BAQ) under the coordination of the 'Clean Air Initiative for Asian cities' (CAI-Asia) alongwith others, was held during 13th to 15th December, 2006 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The workshop was held with a view to bringing together policymakers and experts from Asia and other countries to explore ways to prevent air pollution.

(c) to (e) As per available information, during the above workshop, a discussion draft, which has not undergone peer review by this Ministry, had identified vehicles as the major source of air pollution in large cities in the country. To control vehicular pollution, as per the Auto Fuel Policy, a roadmap is already under implementation in the country, which includes enforcement of stricter auto exhaust standards in respect of vehicles at manufacturing stage and improvement in fuel quality. Further, to ascertain contribution of various sources to air pollution, steps have also been taken for undertaking source apportionment studies in 6 (six) major cities of the country, namely, Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Kanpur.